

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10045 300029Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /076 W
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R 291343Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2497
INFO AMCONSUL BMBAY
AMCONSULCALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL MADRAS
USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10045

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, CH, IN, PK
SUBJECT: INDIA REACTS TO OPENING OF SINO-PAK HIGHWAY

REF NEW DELHI 9522

1. ACCORDING TO THE NEW DELHI PRESS, FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA CALLED IN THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR JUNE 27 AND THE PAKISTANI CHARGE D'AFFAIRES JUNE 28 TO REMIND THEM THAT INDIA "COULD NOT ACQUIESCE IN THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS" OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE KARAKORAM HIGHWAY. MEHTA REPORTED REITERATED INDIA'S STAND THAT THE ROAD IS BUILD IN PAKISTANI-OCCUPIED TERRITORY BELONGING TO THE INDIAN STATE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR AND NOTED THAT INDIA HAD STATED THIS POSITON IN 1962, WHEN PAKISTAN AND CHINA AGREED TO DEMARCATE THEIR DE FACTO COMMON BORDER, AND AGAIN IN 1969 WHEN CONSTRUCTION OF THE HIGHWAY BEGAN. THE TWO DIPLOMATS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE REITERATED THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION.

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2. MEHTA IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE TAKEN EXCEPTION TO PRC VICE-PREMIER KENG PIAO'S EXPRESSEION WHILE IN PAKISTAN OF CHINESE SUPPOT FOR KASHMIRI SELF-DETERMINATION. MEHTA REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE INDIAN UNION.

3. COMMENT. AT HIS JUNE 17 PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL)
PRIME MINISTER DESAI SAID THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO
MAKE A FORMAL PROTEST CONCERNING THE KARAKORAM
HIGHWAY, SINCE IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL. THE DECISION
TO CALL IN THE PAKISTANI AND CHINESE REPRESENTATIVES
PRESUMABLY WAS IN DEFERENCE TO THE DOMESTIC
SENSITIVITY OF THE KASHMIR ISSUE. THE PRESS ACCOUNTS
OF THE FONSEC'S MEETINGS WITH THE CHINESE AND
PAKISTANI DO NOT INDICATE THAT THEY WERE INTENDED TO
DO ANYTHING MORE THAN FORMALLY MAINTAIN INDIA'S
POSITION ON THIS QUESTION.
BLOOD

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Message Attributes

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